AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend Claim 1.

Kindly add new Claims 15 and 16.

1. (Currently thrice amended) An assay for trypsin inhibitors in urine which comprises (a) contacting a urine test sample with a buffered assay medium consisting essentially of (i) trypsin in an amount of from 10 to 750 IU/mL, (ii) a substrate for trypsin which will produce a detectable response when cleaved by trypsin present in a concentration of from 0.2 to 50 mM ~~and~~ (iii) a polycarboxylic chelating agent in sufficient quantity to inhibit interference with the assay from calcium present in the urine as assay reagents and present in an amount of from 0.2 to 50 mM, and (iii) a calcium free buffer, wherein the pH of the buffered assay medium is buffered at a level of from 6.0 to 8.0, and wherein calcium present in the buffered assay medium is not present in sufficient quantity to interfere with the binding of calcium present in the urine test sample with the polycarboxylic chelating agent, and (b) correlating the concentration of trypsin inhibitor with the detectable response from the cleaving of the substrate.

2. (Original) The assay of Claim 1 wherein the assay reagents are in solution.

3. (Original) The assay of Claim 2 wherein the solvent used to form the solution is an aqueous or polar aprotic solvent.

4. (Original) The assay of Claim 3 wherein the solvent is water, ethanol, methanol, isopropanol, acetonitrile, dimethyl sulfoxide, acetone, dimethylformamide or methylethylketone.

C1 5. (Previously once amended) The assay of Claim 1 wherein the assay reagents are in a dry phase.

6. (Original) The assay of Claim 5 wherein the assay reagents are impregnated into a dry test device of a material through which the urine test sample can flow by dipping the dry test device into the buffered assay medium with subsequent drying of the solvent.

7. (Original) The assay of Claim 1 wherein the chelating agent is ethylene glycol bis (β-aminoethyl ether) N,N,N',N'-tetraacetic acid (EGTA); ethylenediaminetrata acetic acid (EDTA); iminodiacetic acid (IDA); nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA); diethylenetriaminipentaacetic acid (DTPA); triethylenetriamine-hexa-acetic acid (TTHA); 2,3-propylenediamino-tetra-acetic acid (UEDTA) and 1,2-diaminocyclohexanetetra-acetic acid.

8. (Canceled) The assay of Claim 1 wherein the trypsin is present in an amount of from 10 to 750 IU/mL, the chelating agent is present in an amount of from 0.2 to 50 mM, the trypsin substrate is present in a concentration of from 0.2 to 50 mM and the pH is buffered at a level of from 6.0 to 8.0.

9. (Original) The assay of Claim 8 wherein the trypsin concentration is from 100 to 500 IU/mL, the chelating agent is present in a concentration of from 10 to 25 mM, and the pH is at a level of from 7.0 to 8.0.

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10. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the substrate for trypsin is selected from the group consisting of arginine or lysine derivatives of 7-amino-4-methylcourmarin, 2-aminonaphthalene, 4-methoxy-2-amino-naphthalene, 3-carboxy-4-hydroxy-analine, 2-chloro-4-nitro-analine, 3-aminoindole, 2-aminoacridone, 2-aminobenzothiazole, 2-aminopyrimidine, Rhodamine 110 and 6-aminoquinoline.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing a test device for the determination of trypsin inhibitor in urine which comprises contacting a pad of absorbent material with an aqueous solution of trypsin and a poly carboxylic chelating agent followed by drying the strip and contacting it with a solvent solution of a substrate for trypsin with subsequent drying.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein the solvent solution of claim 11 contains a non-ionic polyoxyalkyl surfactant.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12 wherein the surfactant contains ethylene glycol units.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein the trypsin substrate is 3-(Nα-tosyl-N_G-nitro-L-arginyloxy)-5-phenylpyrrole.

15. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein the buffer is selected from the group comprising (a) phosphate group containing buffers, (b) carboxyl group containing buffers and (c) Tris buffers.

16. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein the buffer is selected from the group comprising (a) phosphate group containing buffers and (b) carboxyl group containing buffers.